

DESERET EVENING NEWS
Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.
(Sundays excepted.)
Corner of South Temple and East Temple
Streets, Salt Lake City, Utah.
Charles W. Penrose - Editor.
Horace G. Whitney - Business Manager.
SUBSCRIPTION PRICES.
(In Advance):
One Year\$2.00
Six Months\$1.25
Three Months\$0.75
One Month\$0.25
Saturday Edition, Per Year\$2.00
Semi-Weekly, Per Year\$1.00
NEW YORK OFFICE.
In charge of R. F. Cummings, manager
Foreign Advertising, from 35 Home O-
fice, 112 Park Row Building, New York.
SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE.
In charge of F. J. Cooper, 78 Geary St.
Correspondence and other reading mat-
ter for publication should be addressed to the
EDITOR.
Address all business communications
and all remittances to
THE DESERET NEWS,
Salt Lake City, Utah.
Entered at the Postoffice of Salt Lake
City as second class matter on order to the
Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.
SALT LAKE CITY, DEC. 22, 1905.

UTAH TO THE FRONT.
Recent census figures on the "literacy" of the population of this country are encouraging, although we still are behind Germany, Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries. For, as pointed out by a Colorado contemporary, if it were not for the colored population in this country, the percentage of literacy would be much higher than it is. An "illiterate" person, in the sense in which census authorities use that term, is one who is over 9 years of age and is unable to write in any language. A recent report stated that in 1900 there were 6,180,000 persons in the United States. This is 100.6 in 1,000. But since 1890 material gain was made, for, according to the census of that year, the illiterates amounted to 133.4 per 1,000. The report gives some interesting facts. One is, that there is more illiteracy among women than among men, and that the proportion of illiterate children is greater in the country than in the cities. This is, of course, as might be expected, since the facilities for attending school are so much greater in the cities. A somewhat surprising fact brought out in the report is that in the country as a whole there is a lower degree of illiteracy among children of foreign born parents than among those of native parents, the proportion in the one case being 8.8 per 1,000 and in the other 44.1. This, the report says, is due to the concentration in the cities of the children of foreign extraction, where the educational facilities are best. It is not rather due to another fact, that the children of foreign-born parents feel more keenly the necessity of school education than the other children, since without a very good education they are nearly always placed at a disadvantage in the modern competition for the material things that help to make life enjoyable. According to the report, Utah is now the second state in the Union in literacy, Washington being the first. In that state only 1.8 of 1,000 native white children above 9 and under 15 years of age, is an "illiterate." Utah comes a very close second, with 2.2 per 1,000, being only a small fraction behind the leading state. Other states well to the front on this roll of honor are: Massachusetts, 2.3; Oregon, 2.4; Wyoming, 2.7; Idaho, 3.9, and Rhode Island, 6.2. Illinois comes 25th on the list, with 6.9, and Maine is the 30th with 13.6 per 1,000. These figures should be compared with those of some other states in the Union. Texas has 61; Kentucky, 74.7; Arkansas, 110.8; Tennessee, 116.4; and North Carolina, 166.1 per 1,000. It is high time to discontinue the habit of referring to the "wild and woolly West."

It is especially gratifying to us to notice the high place on the educational scale occupied by Utah. This is another irrefutable proof of the utter insanity of the wild howls the detractors of Utah, as so many foul fiends, are uttering, as if the entire region were cursed. Thinking and reflecting persons will certainly see the utter impossibility of maintaining high educational standards except under favorable conditions, such as obtain where freedom and virtue rule, as is eminently the fact in Utah, in spite of the incessant work of the enemies.

SANTA CLAUS.
The real Santa Claus was, many centuries ago, a venerated bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia. According to the legend, he was named Nicholas, which later became St. Nicholas, the modern popular form of which is Santa Claus. Many pious myths center around this historical character of the fourth century. One is to the effect that immediately after birth, as soon as he had had his first bath, he stood up erect in the tub, clasped his little hands together and devoutly "thanked God for his being." Another states that from the first he abstained from nourishment on Fridays, that being the fast day. Another legend has, perhaps, a tangible historical foundation. As bishop of Myra he made it his concern to exercise a watchful care over his flock. One day he found, to his horror, three young girls who were to be sacrificed to a life of shame because their father, an impoverished nobleman, could not provide the necessities of life for them. To save them the bishop went secretly to the nobleman's home and threw into the window, at the feet of the eldest daughter, a purse of gold, sufficient for a marriage dowry, thus insuring her an honorable home. Some time later he did the same kindness for the second daughter. When the bishop came on his third errand of charity, the father surprised him and falling prostrate before the saint, exclaimed: "O St. Nicholas, servant of God, why seek to hide thyself?" From this incident, it is said, the Christmas giving dates. After his death news in the convents imitated his example by making secret gifts to their friends. The young ladies soon learned to expect these presents from unknown sources, and after a time the custom grew of placing silk stockings, with a petition to St. Nicholas, at the door of the abbess's room at night. In the morning the stockings would be found to contain gifts. Such is thought to be the origin of the custom of ascribing Christmas gifts to the benevolence of St. Nicholas. It is another illustration of the enduring power of that which is good. Deeds of charity, of unselfishness, remain for ever, while the works of self-glorification perish with their authors.

"LAND OF JERUSALEM."
A critic has thought himself justified in ridiculing the Book of Mormon because certain authors of that sacred record refer to Jerusalem and surrounding regions, as the land of Jerusalem. If, he argues, the Book of Mormon authors had not been destitute of geographical knowledge, they would have known that Jerusalem is a city, and not a "land."

The fact is, that if the would-be critic had not, himself, lacked entirely the qualifications of a just critic, he would have known that Jerusalem, even today, is not only a city but also a "land." That name stands for the city, but also for the "pashalik," or government district, of which it is the capital. It would, therefore, even now be perfectly proper to speak of the "land of Jerusalem," i. e. the Pashalik of that name, just as it is proper to speak of the State of New York, as well as of the City of New York. The Book of Mormon authors seem to refer to the entire region, at one time known as Judea, under the name of "the land of Jerusalem."

AGAIN THE FIGURES.
Calling names does not change the fact, shown by the City Auditor's report, that considerably over half of the \$550,000 appropriated for the water system, still is available to apply on new contracts. Only \$377,363.23 had been contracted for up to Dec. 15, and of this sum, only \$173,304.79 had been disbursed, leaving a total on hand of over \$675,000, to use a round figure. We reiterate this, because it is very plain that the malicious canard about the water money having been squandered, is being put forth at this time for some dishonest purpose, which later on will be fully unveiled by the conspirators themselves. The taxpayers should guard their own interests. At present it is sufficient to note the audacity with which the falsehood is proclaimed, that the water money has been recklessly spent and the city made bankrupt.

FOR "OLD KENTUCKY."
The Louisville, Kentucky, Commercial club, at the suggestion of a lady of that state, has decided to have a "home-coming" for all Kentuckians residing abroad, who may have time and means to spare, to make the trip. The reunion will take place next June, the dates being from 13 to 17 inclusive, and a celebration on a large scale is being planned. In the invitation sent out, it is stated that there are over 600,000 natives of Kentucky now living in other commonwealths of the United States. The Louisville Commercial Club does not expect to receive a complete list, of all these, but it has placed on foot a plan whereby it hopes to procure a large percentage of the number. They have already collected a list of several thousand, including names from every State and Territory in the Union, and eleven foreign countries. We take pleasure in bringing this to the notice of former Kentuckians in this region, and trust many of them will be able to make the trip, and enjoy the excellent program scheduled.

The High School girls in bloomers! What a blooming sight!
In inaugurating their strike the Russian agitators have made a striking success.
When the demand for coal is strong, you get "slack," when the demand for it is slack, you get lump.
And it is only a short time since ex-Governor Odell declared "the era of peace and good will is here."
Ex-Governor Odell must be an Anarchist, else why has he thrown a bomb into the state camp of his party?
It will be a circus to see the divine Sarah playing in a circus tent. And doubtless it will give her one of the sensations of her life.
It might aid in solving the naturalization problem to require applicants to bring a certificate of character from their last employer.
Long ago Longfellow foresaw the action of the Longfellow on the pass ques-

tion, for did he not issue the warning, "Beware the pass?"
What with holding a place on the Panama canal commission and the presidency of the Clover Leaf railroad, Theodore P. Shonts is in clover.

It is not to be wondered at that an Oregon weather observer has been adjudged insane. Half of the predictions of weather observers are as crazy as crazy can be.

Marquis Ito says he seeks the happiness of Korea and the Koreans. It is to be feared that the Koreans look upon his idea of happiness as the frogs did on the boy's idea of fun.

Baron Ripo, Brazilian minister of foreign affairs, refuses to accept the explanation made by the German minister regarding the Panther incident. The refusal is doubtless based on the fact that the explanation was "made in Germany."

W. J. Bryan has cabled from Hong Kong declining Acting Gov. Ide's invitation to be his guest during his stay in Manila, for the reason that he comes as a newspaper representative and not as a private citizen. Is it syndicate or some particular paper?

The messenger whom Mr. McCurdy of the Mutual Life sent out to find Andrew C. Fields has failed in his search, although he is said to have "searched every sandhill in California." It is too bad that such great efforts should meet with such poor reward. Why not try advertising in the want columns of the newspapers?

Emperor William endeavors to follow the "rules of life" laid down by his favorite physician, as follows: "Eat fruit for breakfast. Eat fruit for lunch. Avoid pastry and hot cakes. Only take potatoes once a day. Don't drink tea or coffee. Walk four miles every day, wet or fine. Take a bath every day. Wash the face every night in warm water. Sleep eight hours every night." Long life to him!

Miss Anna Held when told of the story that William Ellis Corey, president of the United States Steel corporation, had threatened to make revelations involving actions by Pittsburgh men which took place at a banquet at which Miss Held sang, unless the men ceased criticizing Corey, said she remembered the dinner perfectly. Then she added: "Yes; there was a dinner given by Henry Frick in the Duquesne club, Pittsburgh. When I arrived there, which was late in the evening, many of the guests were drunk. They were excessively noisy. I sang 'Won't You Come and Play With Me?' One man removed his coat and shouted 'Certainly.' Before I got away from the place my clothing was torn." So this famous dinner is to go down in history along with the Seelye gorge and the Cambion feed.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.
Harpers' Weekly for December 15 opens with an illustrated story by Thomas A. Janvier, entitled "The Holy-up." This is followed by an illustrated story in verse, "Her Jewels and Her Pets." A "Sprightly Heroine" is another illustrated story by Will N. Harben. There are some full-page illustrations and some other features appropriate for the season. The story of "The Evolution of a Vast Industry" is continued.—Harper & Brothers, New York.

The December number of National Magazine opens with a statement by Mayor Edward J. Connelley, Chicago, concerning the street railway deadlock in that city. He calls attention to the fact that the voters in the spring election expressed their preference for municipal ownership, but that the will of the people has met many obstacles that at present seem insurmountable. He is nevertheless confident of the future. "Affairs at Washington" are as usually interestingly discussed by Joe Mitchell Chaplin. Frank Putnam gives a brief statement of the November elections. The number is well filled with verse, fiction and essays, and the departments are well supplied with interesting reading matter.—444 Dorchester Avenue, Boston.

The December number of the Arena has a great many interesting features. Among them is a portrait of Count Tolstoi in his prime. "Uncle Sam's Romance with Science and the Soil," is the title of a paper by Frank Vrooman. There is further a portrait of J. L. Demar, a clever cartoonist, and some of the products of his art. The number has several little stories and many other features of great interest.—Broad Street, Trenton, N. J.

The December number of Office Appliances, a monthly magazine devoted to the interests of bankers and users of modern office devices, has some very practical suggestions and excellent illustrations for the benefit of the class of readers for which that magazine is specially intended. A special supplement goes with this number, in which "The Knockout" is defined as an offspring of failure and envy. The public is advised not to listen to him, but to hit him in the place where his brains ought to be.—Republic Building, Chicago.

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CURTAIN & S.
All Next Week.
MATINEES MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY.
Klaw & Erlanger's (Inc.) GREAT SPECIALTY.

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300 People on the Stage.
Prices—50c to \$2.50. Sale Now On.

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SATURDAY MATINEE AND NIGHT.
THE TALK OF THE TOWN.
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Buy your ticket now. People turned away last night.
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Artistic Singers and Dancers.

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Make special prices to ward socials, dances, parties, etc. Prompt service.
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Prompt service and delivery to any part of the city free day or night.

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Gillette razors need no strop-
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Where the cars stop.
The Great Prescription Drug Store.

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Xmas presents for Her in Manicure, Traveling, and Razors, Toilets and Jewel Cases, Glove Boxes and Hand Bags.
Xmas gifts for Him, Military Brushes, Cuff and Collar Boxes, Shaving and Smoking Sets, Cigar Cases, Cigars by the box that he will appreciate. Mirrors in many styles. Bargains for everyone. Both phones 457—remember the number.

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THIS WILL GIVE YOU

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A \$7.50 Coat for.....\$5.00	A \$13.00 Coat for.....\$8.69
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